

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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TOHAK 001

SEPTEMBER 16, 1975

FROM BRENT SCOWCROFT

TO PAUL BARBIAN

FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FOLLOWING IS THE GIST OF THE Q & A'S FROM THE PRESIDENT'S
PRESS CONFERENCE. THEY ARE NOT VERBATIM BUT THE THRUST
IS ACCURATE.

Q: THERE IS AN ARTICLE TODAY ABOUT THE US SUPPLYING ADVANCE
TECHNOLOGY WEAPONS TO ISRAEL. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT IT?

A: ALL OF THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS.
REGARDING ITEMS LIKE MISSILES AND F-16'S, THERE IS NO COMM-
MITMENT INVOLVED; THERE WILL JUST BE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
US. IT REPRESENTS A SHOPPING LIST WHICH WE WILL DISCUSS.

Q: SHOULD WE GIVE JUST ONE SIDE WEAPONS LIKE THAT?

A: WE HAVE ALWAYS PROVIDED MILITARY HARDWARE TO ISRAEL. ITS
SURVIVAL IS IMPORTANT TO US AND WE HAVE FROM THE BEGINNING
PROVIDED THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO ASSURE THAT
SURVIVAL.

Q: ARE WE MOVING TOWARD A SECURITY TREATY WITH ISRAEL?
SOME OF THE LANGUAGE SEEMS TO HINT THAT.

A: I WOULD NOT SAY SO. AS I HAVE SAID, WE HAVE ALWAYS PROVIDED
MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ISRAEL.

Q: IN AN EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCE, YOU SUPPORTED COVERT
ACTIVITIES IN CHILE. NOW YOU SAY YOU MAY SEPARATE THAT KIND
OF ACTIVITY FROM CIA. WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND?

A: A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE MY REMARKS. WE HAVE HAD STUDIES
AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE ROCKEFELLER AND MURPHY COMMISSIONS.
WE ARE STUDYING ALL THESE MATERIALS AND PLAN TO BENEFIT BY
THEM. BUT I AM NOT COMMITTED TO ANY PARTICULAR COURSE

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OF ACTION.

Q: ARE YOU RULING OUT COVERT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OR JUST THE CIA DOING IT?

A: I WOULD NOT RULE IT OUT IF IT INVOLVES OUR SECURITY INTERESTS.

Q: WE ARE SHORT OF OIL OURSELVES, HOW CAN WE AGREE TO PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH OIL?

A: WE THINK THAT THERE IS SUPPLY AVAILABLE TO ISRAEL AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WILL REALLY IMPACT ON THE US.

Q: BUT WE HAVE TO PAY FOR IT?

A: IT WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF AID ARRANGEMENTS. REMEMBER THAT 76 SENATORS RECOMMENDED MEETING ISRAEL'S REQUESTS WITHOUT ANY STEPS TOWARD PEACE. WE HAVE COMPLETED SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARD PEACE AND ARE PROVIDING AID AT DOLLAR COSTS LESS THAN THE 76 PROPOSED.

Q: YOU HAVE HAD DOCUMENTS SUBPOENAED BY THE PIKE COMMITTEE. WILL YOU HONOR THE SUBPOENA?

A: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS GIVEN QUANTITIES OF MATERIAL, INCLUDING HIGHLY CLASSIFIED MATERIAL TO THE COMMITTEE. I DISAPPROVE OF THE WAY SOME OF THAT MATERIAL HAS BEEN HANDLED. SOME OF IT IS PROTECTED BY STATUTE SO THAT IF A CITIZEN RELEASED IT, IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSE. THAT IS HOW SERIOUSLY CONGRESS CONSIDERS IT. THE COMMITTEE HAS ALL THE MATERIAL IT ASKED FOR TO DETERMINE HOW THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IS DOING ITS JOB. I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROTECTION OF DOCUMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE AND THAT PROCEDURES IN THE FUTURE ARE IMPROVED OVER THOSE IN THE PAST.

Q: THERE ARE OBJECTIONS TO US TECHNICIANS IN SINAI. HOW LONG WILL THEY BE THERE AND ISN'T THIS AN OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT?

A: THEY WILL BE THERE THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE AGREEMENT UNLESS WITHDRAWN BECAUSE OF DANGER. THERE WILL BE LESS THAN 200 OF THEM IN THE UN BUFFER ZONE. I THINK THAT IS A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE.

Q: WOULD YOU INTERVENE IF THE PLO CAPTURED SOME OF THE TECHNICIANS?

A: I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON SOMETHING I DON'T

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Q: DOESN'T THE LANGUAGE RELATING TO INTERVENTION BY A
WORLD POWER CONSTITUTE A SECURITY COMMITMENT AND SHOULDN'T
IT BE APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS?

Q: WILL THE MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT MAKE EASIER THE LIFTING OF THE TURKISH AID EMBARGO?

WARM REGARDS.

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